

**Rourke Ranch HistoriCorps Project,  
Comanche National Grassland, Las Animas County, Colorado  
April 25-May 1, 2016**

In late April 2016, the Comanche National Grassland collaborated with HistoriCorps to rebuild and stabilize two structures at Rourke Ranch National Historic District, Comanche National Grassland, Las Animas County, Colorado. Last summer, strong winds blew the roof off a storage building and another structure, a log stable with adobe daub, required stabilization. Despite some very challenging weather (rain, snow, and hail), HistoriCorps with the help of 20+ volunteers replaced the storage building roof, completed adobe stabilization in the stables, and repaired several wooden corrals and gates. This project made a substantial contribution to preserving Rourke Ranch for future generations. It also helps celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act and Colorado's Archaeological and Historical Preservation Month.

Established in 1871, Rourke Ranch was a 100-year-old cattle and horse ranch that persisted through three generations. The original settlement was 40 acres and when the family finally sold the ranch in 1971, the holdings had grown to over 50,000 acres. Rourke Ranch was known as one of the most successful business and ranches in the southwest. The architecture and workmanship of the buildings mostly adobe and jacal styles is one of the many reasons the site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

HistoriCorps is a nonprofit organization that provides volunteers, students and veterans of all skill levels with a hands-on experience preserving historic structures on public lands across America.

For more information on HistoriCorps please visit: <http://historiccorps.org/>

For information on 50 Years of The National Historic Preservation Act visit:  
<http://preservation50.org/>

For more information on the Rourke Ranch Historic Site visit:  
[http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/psicc/recreation/recarea/?recid=12438,](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/psicc/recreation/recarea/?recid=12438)

Also visit History Colorado at: <http://www.historycolorado.org>

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The HistoriCorps crew working to replace the storage-building roof.



The HistoriCorps' "mud crew" adding adobe to the interior of the log stable.



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HistoriCorps also repaired historic gates and corral fences.



HistoriCorps crew in front of the reroofed storage building.



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HistoriCorps crew in front of the historic stable.

*All photos by Michelle Stevens, Comanche National Grassland*